

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claims 1-10 (Canceled)

11. (New) A method for identifying the rotation of a stepper motor which includes a rotor provided with a motor coil driving at least one hand of a timepiece, comprising the steps of:

- A) delivering to the motor coil a drive voltage pulse and a first detection pulse;
- B) delivering to the motor coil a second detection voltage pulse having a polarity opposite to the polarity of the first detection voltage pulse; and
- C) determining the position of the rotor in accordance with first and second pulse responses to the first and second detection pulses, respectively.

12. (New) The method according to claim 12, further comprising delivering to the motor coil, prior to step B, a stabilization voltage pulse having a polarity opposite to the polarity of the first drive voltage pulse.

13. (New) The method according to claim 11, wherein step C comprises determining the position of the rotor from a comparison of the first and second pulse responses.

14. (New) The method according to claim 13, wherein the comparison comprises comparing the amplitudes of the first and second pulse responses to one another.

15. (New) The method according to claim 14, wherein a deviation from an actual position of the rotor relative to a required position is detected when the difference between the amplitudes of the first and second pulse responses exceeds a predetermined threshold.

16. (New) The method according to claim 11, wherein the first and second detection voltage pulses are delivered several drive voltage pulse periods (T_1) after the delivery of the drive voltage pulse.

17. (New) The method according to claim 11, wherein the periods (T_3 , T_4) of the first and second detection voltage pulses are each about one tenth of the drive voltage pulse period (T_1).

18. (New) The method according to claim 11, wherein the second detection voltage pulse delivers several periods of detection voltage pulses after the first detection voltage pulse.

19. (New) The method according to claim 12, wherein the stabilization voltage pulse follows the drive voltage pulse.

20. (New) The method according to claim 12, wherein the stabilization voltage pulse is delivered a plurality of drive voltage pulse periods after the drive voltage pulse.

21. (New) The method according to claim 12, wherein the duration (T_2) of the stabilization voltage pulse is approximately 10 percent to 50 percent of the duration of the drive voltage pulse duration (T_1).

22. (New) In a method for identifying the rotation of a stepper motor which includes a rotor provided with a motor coil driving at least one hand of a timepiece, wherein a drive voltage pulse and a first detection voltage pulse are delivered to the motor coil and wherein the position of the rotor is determined with the aid of a first pulse response to the first detection voltage pulse, the improvement comprising the steps of:

A) delivering to the motor coil a stabilization voltage pulse having a polarity opposite to the polarity of the first drive voltage pulse, and thereafter

B) delivering to the motor coil a second detection voltage pulse having a polarity opposite to the polarity of the first detection voltage pulse.